



CLUB REPEATERS VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661
Listen: 146.820 MHz
Txmit: 146.220 MHz
Listen: 444.825 MHz
Txmit: 449.825 MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 807-767-5492
Listen: 147.060 MHz
Txmit: 146.460 MHz

VA3OLA

Listen: 53.050 MHz
Txmit: 52.050 MHz

VE3BGA

Listen: 145.450 MHz
Txmit: 144.850 MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant

2 METRE NET

Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m. Room 207B
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

SHORTWAVES

First, the chart on page 8 of last month's *HI-Q* is correct. Please **read** the article. If there is no load to dissipate an RF signal, the full power injected *will be reflected back*, except for any losses. Now, what would dissipate power in a shorted or open transmission line? The line losses. Maybe it's a bad connector, poor shielding, water contamination, RF frequency loss, cheap coax, etc. As line losses increase, the VSWR is reduced towards 1:1, to the point where most of the power can be lost in the in the line.

Next time you use a G5RV, ask how an antenna with a VSWR of over 20 or 30 or 50 to 1, on some bands, can perform so well. Ask yourself why you use a *low loss* 300 or 450 ohm feeder line between the antenna and the coax or to the transmatch. Then, ask yourself why a dummy load, that always shows a VSWR of 1:1, is a very poor antenna. Recommended reading is *Reflections* by Walter Maxell, W2DU and the *ARRL Antenna Handbook*. There are stranger things in the radio universe than in your little corner of the world, Horatio.

We have a quintet of new 2 metre net controllers and all are keen to see that VHF thrives in Thunder Bay. Dave, VE3AVS will soon be starting code practice on VE3TBR. Now's the time to start learning the code to upgrade your ticket. I hated CW for 18 years, till I got into ham radio. I was never relaxed copying commercial traffic. Whenever a ship tuned up on 500 kHz, my insides would churn. Now, I work CW with ships just like I work ham stations. It's all in the attitude and perception.

The club is looking for volunteers for other positions and we can always use your help, no matter what your radio skill or experience. You gotta get in there and just do it. Someone has to do the job, sooner or later. You may even enjoy it.—Ed.

From the new treasurer, this gentle reminder. "It is now October and if you have forgotten to renew your membership, let me be the first to tell you—**YOU'RE LATE!** If you can't remember the last time that you paid your membership, it was probably last year—**FEES ARE DUE NOW!** Check your chequebook and if you don't see something for the LARC—please **FORWARD YOUR CHEQUE TODAY!** Please support your club and pay your dues on time."—Tx'es 73, John, VE3GTX.

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Founding President
P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

Senete

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM	577-1628
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer: John Watson, VE3GTG	683-3199
Directors: Judy LeFevre, VA3EAP	622-7920
Dave Horne, VA3DVE	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB	473-5482
Rob Van Wyck, VE3FLB	344-7845
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTG	683-3199
Past Pres: Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA	577-9439
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Club and Newsletter Information

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To reduce production and distribution costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$90.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

Please send all club correspondence to the following address: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

The LARC has an Internet web site home page that is sponsored by Len, VA3LEB. The Internet address is: <http://www.foxnet.net/larc>. Stop by for a visit and get your *HI-Q* electronically.

Blurb-OLAgam

by Eric, VE3RUE

Greetings to all from the "Ola" had the potential of making my group of 6 metre FM enthusiasts. It appears that the 1996 summer of sporadic "E" skip has all but disappeared. But, our logbook attests to many new contacts as well as many very enjoyable QSO's with hams we had contacted in past seasons.

As Don, VA3DPB forecast in the May "OLAgam", he was anticipating the use of a "black box" which I had grafted for use as a crossband repeater. Indeed, several of these devices (aluminum boxes, mind you) have been assembled and experimented with in a 2-to-6 metre FM setup. We're very happy to report good results. As many of you probably known, by now, Don's station is gaining notoriety in the "deep South" as the big gun from grid EN58, and rightly so. We found that connecting 2m FM to 6m FM would work well from his home. I've enjoyed use of this X-band arrangement in a mobile station. Although, overcoming some RF feedback because of antenna proximity can be challenging.

The devices to accomplish simple crossbanding between 2 ham transceivers are little more than VOX (voice activating squelch) controllers, except that they will respond to simple audio noise (the type you here if you open your squelch to an unused 2m FM frequency). By utilizing the 8 ohm external speaker jack, found on most transceivers, and dividing this signal into mic (600 ohm) audio and a relay control, you control the transmitting of one radio with the received signal of another.

The circuit was discussed a couple of years ago in a popular ham magazine. I'll never forget the day I read it or rather my wife won't as I spilled my soup (I usually read while eating) in my excitement over the circuit, hi!

As an apartment dweller, while attending a college course in North Bay, I quickly learned the woes a ham can encounter, and this circuit

vehicle a remote site as a 6m to 2m repeater without great expense or paraphernalia. Once constructed, it took about 6 months to get around to ironing out some feedback problems, but with the addition of extra filter capacitors within the boxes this was solved.

There use isn't quite as simple as the VE3YQT repeater, in that it's a "first come first served basis." In a setup like Don, VA3DPB, demonstrated this summer, using 2 radios and 2 PTT controllers is similar to a regular repeater except that you cannot break into a QSO until the squelch closes. During times of heavy band activity and/or carriers, one cannot break in until the receiving station's squelch closes.

By next season, I plan to include a watchdog timer to prevent lock-on as well as a CW identification for more unattended operation. We certainly hope you enjoyed the opportunity that Don provided to experiment with these devices and we'll keep you posted on further 6m to 2m plans.—73, Eric.

Several area hams gave the X-band 2m to 6m a little workout this summer: Rob, VE3FLB with his Ten-Tec 20m to 6m transverter, Dave, VE3AVS, Gerry, VA3BRN, yours truly and Dan, VE3DWP. The X-band 2m to 6m worked on 144.500 FM simplex.

Dan really light up the "deep South." If anyone has questions about 2m to 6m DX'ing have a QSO with Dan about it. Also, if you are interested, Ten-Tec has come out with a 2m to 6m transverter which is all-mode, too. Talk to Rob, VE3FLB about the transverter that he built. It's a real fine looking piece of electronics.

There's a lot to do with the VHF frequencies, FM, SSB and CW, along with packet, etc. CQ VHF is an excellent magazine for VHF'ers to enjoy the VHF bands more.—Ed.

Meeting Minutes

by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 207B at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on September 12th, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 40 members and guests in attendance.

As there were some new faces in the crowd, the meeting started off with a round table and each one present introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what they had done over the summer.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held June 13, 1996 were published in detail in the September edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Correspondence:

Letter from Industry Canada regarding the use of "CJ3" for the 1997 Canadian Scout Jamboree.

Letter requesting the Clubs help for the Heart of Thunder Bay Race to be held September 22, 1996.

Treasurer's Report: VE3BBS, Skip Wright

Balance as of June 13, 1996:
\$1,847.30

Expenses: 920.53
Income: 342.00

Balance as of September 12, 1996:
\$1,268.77

Motion: moved by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki and seconded by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

President's Report: VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

Not a heck of a lot going on this past summer.

Did some work on VE3TBR and fixed the phone patch on VE3YQT.

The club is looking for a 48 volt power supply for VE3YQT.

Field day was held at the summer resort of VA3RIM, Ian Mellis. The bands were not all bad but not good enough for us to win. Compliments to VE3XT, Bill Unger for the spaghetti supper.

Children's Festival: the theme was communications and several amateurs participated giving younger children a sample of amateur radio.

Triathlon: communications were provided for the bicycle and running portions of the race.

Thunder in the Air '96 air show, 28 operators participated over the two day event.

Asset List has been completed and is in the hands of the Secretary.

Old Business:

Upsala Duplexers: the club has an opportunity to get our hands on a brand new set of duplexers if they will our specifications. The price still has to be negotiated.

Grand Marais Link: the Grand Marais repeater is sick again. The club executive has proposed that we talk to the owner regarding the servicing of the Grand Marais repeater.

CJ '97: VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck has talked to the head of programming for the Jamboree regarding amateur radio participation.

New Business:

Code practice: VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton is willing to put code practice on VE3TBR one night a week if the interest is there.

2m Net: the club is looking for net controllers on a rotating basis (one Monday night a month) to keep the

2m mini net in operation. VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton, VA3ROM, Bob Mazur and VE3DWP, Dan Darling have volunteered so far.

Instructional videos: VE3SNW, Ed Baumann asked if the club was interested in having a video production done by Northwest Video Productions to promote amateur radio. Classes for amateur radio will start the third Thursday in October.

Election of Officers:

The chair was turned over to the Nominating Committee represented by VA3GD, Pat Doherty for the presentation of the nominating committee's report. Pat mentioned that a lot of thought and some arm twisting had been put into the report.

The following is the slate as proposed by the nominating committee:

President: VA3RIM, Ian Mellis
Vice Pres: VE3SNW, Ed Baumann
Secretary: VE3XRC, Norman Bell
Treasurer: VE3GTX, John Watson
Directors: VA3EAP, Judy LeFevre
VA3DPB, Don Bel
VA3DVE, Dave Horne
VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck
PastPres: VE3TKA,
Terry Stewardson

Nominations from the floor were called for and none were received. As such, the above officers and directors were acclaimed for the forthcoming year.

VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki thanked on behalf of the club both VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson and VE3BBS, Skip Wright for their efforts and many hours of work as officers of the club.

The new president, VA3RIM, Ian Mellis gave a short acceptance speech.

Adjournment: moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3MPT, Manuel Migueis.

The Origin of "Ham"

Well, I finally managed to track down the origin and meaning of the term "ham." This should put an end to all the myths, once and for all.

According to G.M. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor*, published in the days of railway and landline telegraphers, in the 19th century, the term "ham fisted" or just "ham" was used as a description for a poor telegrapher. Nowadays, we use the terms "lid" and "QLF" (send with your left foot.)

In the early days of radio, spark gap transmitters were used. These were rich in harmonics. In those unregulated days (pre 1914), interference was a big problem. Federal, commercial stations, ships and amateurs fought RF battles. Many amateur stations could put out very strong signals and would jam local communications. Commercial and ship operators would complain, on the air (in spark, of course), "THOSE <explet> HAMS ARE

JAMMING EVERYTHING AGAIN"

Amateurs hearing those transmissions, who weren't familiar with landline/railway signal codes and terms, picked up on "ham" and adopted it. Over the years, the original derogatory meaning was lost. *The obsolete CW requirement remains in force, to this day, as a reminder of those early radio wars!*—Ed.

Tnx to QST, September 1995, pg. 79. and a 1974 issue of HI-Q.

Editorial

At the last executive meeting, Ed, VE3SNW mentioned to me that as the newsletter editor, I was really the most influential person of the group. I was thinking: "Yeah, right. Lot of good I've done in the past 2 years as editor." Then, I began to *really* think about it.

You know, we do have some serious problems. Not only in this club and amateur radio but in society in general. Too many people want to do nothing and yet expect everything.

Are the few who actually do all the work getting fed up and sick and tired of the lack of input and support and of being taken for granted? Of club members, perhaps 20 percent do all the work for the benefit of the rest. Paying your 30 bucks a year just ain't enough. Some blood, sweat and

tear is needed, as well. I was told that that about 75 percent of the hams in the club are long time members (read over 50). Why can't we attract and keep new, younger members? Were have all the young people gone? Gone to the Internet, a long time ago.

Enthusiasm can be very infectious if applied in liberal doses. We have heard that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile. If you are expecting others to make things work and carry the load, think again. You may have some very expensive radio paperweights, no club and no licence, in a few years.

There was a nice write-up in a Sunday edition of *The Times-News Chronicle Journal*. Take the time to read it and see if it doesn't get you motivated about amateur radio and

your club affiliation. If it doesn't, then what the heck! Why are you spending time, money, hassling the neighbours, putting up lightning rods on towers, if there's no spark left in your gap? And, if you aren't motivated, then how can we motivate others to join and participate?

The new Club president Ian, VA3RIM is open to suggestions, offers and ideas to move the club into the 21st century. We have a new team of volunteers who are keen and eager. Show them that you do care by your input and support, encouragement and body once in a while. What has happened in the past is in the past. Hold the funeral and bury it. The future is the only thing that you and I, together, can change.—Ed.

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Telegraphic Codes of the World—Part 1

Bob Eldridge, VE7BS, the QUA columnist of TCA, sent me a copy of this fascinating reprint article.—Ed.

The following story appeared in "Railroad Man's Magazine" Vol. 28, No. 4, December 1915. Authored by Donald McNicol, a world famous authority on world codes. His collection of books (over 1,000) on Communication Engineering and associated subjects was donated to Kingston University, Kingston, Ontario—one of the world's largest, on the subject. He became a silent key in 1953. He was a very brilliant man and a true gentleman.

The story "Telegraphic Codes of the World" records for history and posterity an important segment of our heritage.—Society of Wireless Pioneers.

From the beginning the mind of man has ever been concerned with the problem of devising symbols or signs which could be used in conveying thoughts and ideas to the minds of other men. History tells us that in all ages and in all lands the people of the period had their own peculiar methods of communication—in the less civilized countries by means of signs manifested by gesticulation of the hands and arms, and among more highly developed peoples by means of inscribed marks or symbols.

In the writings of Homer "the lambent flame that shone round the head of Achilles" is compared to the signals made in besieged cities by clouds of smoke in the daytime, and by bright fires at night—signals which were employed in calling for assistance and in notifying friendly cities of the imminence of hostile attack.

Signaling-systems employing alternately obscured and exposed lighted torches were used by Polybius in the Punic war, B.C. 264. Flag and semaphore signaling systems were employed by Washington's army in the War of the Revolution; and before

and immediately after that time many ingenious signaling-systems were proposed which consisted mainly of symbols representing certain prearranged groups of words.

The necessity for a universal signaling-alphabet having a symbol for each letter that form the elements of written language had been recognized from very early time. The Francis Bacon alphabet of 1605 A.D. is the first successful attempt of which there is a record, having as its basis "dimension" and "duration" of the elements of the signal. It was a far cry, however, from this early alphabet to the scientific arrangement adopted by Morse in the year 1844.

It would take the comprehension of a seer to grasp the wealth of significance contained in those three simple words, "the Morse Alphabet." Today the language of the wire, the language of the rail, the universal language of the sea are made up of the mystic symbols which comprise the telegraph alphabet.

In the minds of many the idea prevails that the first telegraph code was devised by Professor Morse, the inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph, with the aid of his assistant Alfred Vail. It is true that both Morse and Vail performed a vast amount of painstaking labor in devising a satisfactory signaling-code for the Morse telegraph system introduced in the year 1844; but it has since been learned that had Morse known of the work along the same lines done by prior scientists he would have found ready at hand an alphabet answering his requirements better than the first code arrangement which he employed.

In the year 1605 Francis Bacon, in his *Advancement of Learning* discussing cryptography, submits a form of biliteral alphabet which may be made up of all things which are capable of two differences.

Employing dots and dashes in the

composition of this alphabet, the letters were designated as follows:

BACON'S CODE OF 1605

A	I	R
B	K	S
C	L	T
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z

The omission of the letters J and U is due to the fact that these letters of the English alphabet hadn't been differentiated from I and V.

REE'S CODE

In a cyclopedia published by Dr. Abraham Rees in 1809 there appears an alphabet in which the first nine letters are represented identically with Bacon's code. In the Ree's alphabet the inclusion of the letters J and U necessitated a shift forward of the signs. With the exception of the letters X, Y, and Z, this alphabet is the same as that of Bacon's.

SWAIM'S CODE

James Swain, of Philadelphia, in the year 1829 described an "acoustic" alphabet which could be employed in telegraphing along or through a wall.

As shown herewith this alphabet is represented in conventional dots and dashes; but as originally devised the dots were represented by the letter T (meaning "tap"), while the dashes were represented by a letter S (meaning "scratch").

A .	J	S
B . .	K	T
C . . .	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

It is evident that this alphabet was not carefully designed, as with four signs only a sufficient number of combinations could have been made to represent thirty letters or characters. The employment of spaces between the elements of two-thirds of the total number of letters makes this alphabet somewhat cumbersome and difficult to memorize.

LOST CODES

The alphabet employed by Lomond in France in the operation of his pith-ball telegraph in the year 1787 has evidently been lost to telegraphic history, as also is that used by Harrison Gray Dyar in the United States in the operation of his electrochemical telegraph in the year 1828.

SCHILLING'S CODE

The alphabet employed by Baron Schilling, whose telegraph was constructed in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the latter part of 1832, consisted of elements indicative of position—to the left or to the right—of a vertical pointer whose movements were controlled electrically from a distant station.

As usually shown this alphabet consists of combinations of the letters L and R meaning "left" for dashes and "right" for dots. For example, in transmitting the letter N the sending lever is moved to the left once and to the right once. At the receiving-station the indicating needle would swing first to the left and then to the right.

A .-	J .-. -	S --
B ...	K ... -	T -
C ---	L	U ---
D .-. -	M -.-	V ---
E .	N -.	W .-. -
F	O .-	X -.-.
G -----	P ---.	Y ---.
H -----	Q ---.	Z .-. .
I ..	R -..	

GAUSS & WEBER'S CODE

In 1833 Gauss and Weber, of Germany, introduced a telegraph

system employing a galvanometer with a reflecting mirror, the movements of the mirror to the left or to the right being observed by means of a telescope. The alphabet is shown herewith, a dot representing a movement of the mirror to the right and a dash a movement to the left:

A .	H ----	P
B --	I ..	R ...-
C ...	K ...	S --.
D .-. -	L ---.	T .-. .
E -	M -.-	U -.
F .-. .	N ---	V .-. .
G ---	O -.	W ---.
		Z ---

In this alphabet C and K have the same symbol, as also have F and V.

STEINHILL'S CODE

The alphabet employed by Steinhill in Germany in 1836 was as follows:

A -.-	I .	R --
B -.- -	J .	S -.-.
C ---	K ---.	T -.
D .-	L ---	U .-
E -	M ...	V .-. .
F --	N ..	W .-. -
G .-. -	O ----	Z .-. -
H	P -.-.	

It will be noted that I and J have the same symbol, also U and V, and that the letters Q, X and Y were dispensed with.

DEVELOPMENT OF MORSE CODE

Professor Morse's first idea of a telegraphic alphabet was that a dictionary of words could be made up, giving to each word a numerical reference, thus: Alabama, 123; Arkansas, 321; Accept my compliments, 73; End of story, 30, et cetera. The dot-and-dash code used to represent each figure was as follows:

1 .	6 .-
2 ..	7 .-. -
3 ...	8 ---
4	9 .-. .
5 0	0 -

It is apparent that a very long list

of words may be arranged with these ten figures in different relations; but the time required, first to compose the words of the message to be transmitted into groups of figures, and then to translate these groups into written words at the receiving station, caused delay which resulted in the early abandonment of this method of telegraphing.

The first complete alphabet devised by Professor Morse in which each letter was given a dot-and-dash symbol was that used in the year 1838.

MORSE 1838 CODE

A	J . . .	S . - .
B	K - - -	T - - -
C	L — — —	U . - - -
D	M - - .	V — — —
E .	N - - .	W . . -
F	O . .	X - - -
G . . .	P	Y . -
H	Q . . - .	Z . - .
I . -	R . . .	

It will be noted that the same symbol has been given to G and J, and to I and Y, and to S and Z. The Morse alphabet used in the year 1844—which is still unchanged in the United States and in Canada—consisted of a rearrangement of the symbols, avoiding duplication. *This is now the old American (Landline/Railway) Morse code and was used until the late 1960's. Morse operators had to know both it and the Continental Morse code that we use today!—Ed.*

MORSE 1844 CODE (Commercial Use, 1915)

A .-	J -.-.	S ...
B -... .	K -.-	T -
C ...	L —	U ..-
D -..	M --	V ...-
E .	N -.	W ...-
F .-. .	O ..	X ...-
G --.	P Y ...	
H	Q ..-. .	Z ...
I ..	R ...	& ...
1 .--.	6 7 --.	
2 ..--.	7 --.	
3 ...-	8 -....	

(Continued on page 7)

Highway Emergencies

by Bruce, N6TFS

Daily, around our country, hams encounter highway emergencies on their travels. It could be as simple as a motorist stranded on a centre divider or as deadly as a multi-car traffic accident. These are all emergencies and are worthy of dialing 911. By the way, at least in Southern California, there are no emergency call boxes on freeway center dividers like there are on the right shoulders. And, all too often these motorists attempt to run across traffic lanes to seek help. The highway patrol considers these calls a priority, just as a traffic accident is.

You don't have to ask for a control operator on a repeater to find help. Any interested ham, on any frequency, who is near any telephone (even pay phones, autopatches and cell phones are fine) can help. I know hams, including myself, that take emergency calls from other mobile hams and forward it via an autopatch, while driving. Being a good communicator is the important thing here, not how it gets through.

If you are on a street and near a pay phone, often that is quicker than even using ham radio. Just dial 911, a free call, and it can save lives. If you are the mobile ham, don't be afraid to call for help several times. Just use plain English when asking for help, you don't need to use any special codes or hamspeak. The responding ham near the phone may even need your coaching, not a problem, walk them through it.

Hams don't have to be members of any special emergency groups to assist on either end of this type of emergency. The repeater that I am active on, in the Los Angeles area, handled about 5000 calls last year. While the W6FNO repeater, 146.820(-) specializes in this type of communications. **It can be done on any repeater and should be.**

That is why we all should leave nice pauses between our transmissions so that emergencies can get through. (This will make VE3AVS happy.—Ed.)

Hurricanes and floods don't happen everyday but highway emergencies do. Handling this kind of radio traffic is great training for larger disasters. Many of you will find that it will increase your confidence on the radio; it did for me.—73, Bruce, N6TFS.

Submitted by Jim, VE3UA via the VE3TKA packet radio BBS.

A first aid kit is also a handy thing to carry in your vehicle and so is knowing how to use it. Along with emergency phone numbers and road maps.—Ed.

Ham Puzzler

by Dave, VE3AVS

Unscramble the four jumbled words. Then arrange the shaded letters to form a word or words associated with the call sign shown below. Answer in next month's HI-Q.

V A 3 R O M

--	--	--	--	--	--

S C O D R

--	--	--	--	--

X M I R E

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I E L P D O

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D I R T O E

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(Continued from page 6)

4	9 - . . .
5 - - - -	0 - - - -
Period
Colon	. - . . .
Paragraph	- - - - -
Fraction Line	. / .
Semi-Colon
Comma	. - . . .
Question	-
Parenthesis	. - . . .
Exclamation	- - - . .

A person might well be pardoned for not at first sight observing that the Morse alphabet is a scientific arrangement of dots and dashes composed with the object of providing short signals for those letters which occur most frequently in English words, and also with the object of arranging letter-signs sufficiently dissimilar to prevent or at least lessen the likelihood of confusion.

The symbols are arranged from three elements—the dot, the dash, and the space—having the following relative values:

The dot	1 unit
The space between the elements of a letter	1 unit
The space employed in the "spaced" characters	2 units
The space between letters	3 units
The space between words	6 units
The short dash	3 units
The long dash	6 units

We will continue next month with the rest of the development of Morse code and the ensuing battles with the Continental form of the code.

Probably, most people have fears and dislikes for things that they don't understand. By attempting to present Morse code in a more interesting and informative light, perhaps there will be less reluctance to getting your code ticket and actually using and enjoying it on the airwaves.

There's a lot of history behind the code. It was and still is the most effective communication between people who can't see each other nor speak the same language.—Ed.

Flea Market Truths Revealed

Flea Speak	Translation	Flea Speak	Translation	Flea Speak	Translation
This rig puts out a big signal.	<i>It's 50 kHz wide.</i>	That's its original box.	<i>Just dump out the kitty litter.</i>	You won't find a better price...	<i>from my point of view.</i>
This is a fine CW rig.	<i>It doesn't work on SSB.</i>	Better buy it now.	<i>It won't last much longer.</i>	It's a collector's item.	<i>The maker went belly up.</i>
Its transmitter's outstanding.	<i>Its receiver's dead.</i>	It works at full power.	<i>It sucks up lots of power.</i>	It's an estate sale.	<i>Take up any problems with the last owner.</i>
A vintage regen type.	<i>It oscillates.</i>	It has wide frequency coverage.	<i>It drifts up and down and outside the band.</i>	Vintage shack ambiance.	<i>The smoke it emits will have you wheezing.</i>
I just retubed it...	<i>with used tubes.</i>	Better buy it now, someone was just trying it out.	<i>Some fat guy sat on it to tie his shoelaces.</i>	I have its [...] somewhere. I'll send it to you.	<i>Don't hold your breath.</i>
I don't know whether it works.	<i>It doesn't.</i>	It was a popular rig in its day.	<i>HF nets were developed for its maintenance problems.</i>	I'll carry it to your car.	<i>Anything to unload it.</i>
It doesn't chirp...	<i>because there's no output.</i>	The dial needs lubrication.	<i>The gears are stripped.</i>	It needs a bit of tweaking.	<i>Maybe Marconi could align it; no one else can.</i>
It has lots of audio...	<i>a strong 120 Hz buzz.</i>	I plugged it in. It lights up.	<i>A two-foot flame came out of the top.</i>	<i>From March '96 Lockheed Employees Recreation Association "Amateur Radio Horizons", Jim Woods, KC7FG, Editor. Tnx to ARNS July/August 1996, pg. 7.</i>	
I just serviced it.	<i>I sprayed the innards with WD40.</i>				



President's Podium

by Ian, VA3RIM

I wish to thank the members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club for having the faith and trust in placing me in the position of president. I will do my utmost to retain your confidence.

As we begin a new year, there will be some changes. Terry, VE3TKA and Skip, VE3BBS are taking a much needed rest from their many duties with the club. Because the work once done by them is still with us, we will be seeking members of our club who will be willing and able to do the various jobs. These positions could be extremely challenging but the rewards will also be great.

Your Executive will be working hard also. They want to hear your ideas and opinions. They will also be providing new opportunities for each member to gain new skills. With these new skills comes added self-confidence and if we keep learning, who knows what we can eventually accomplish.

I hope that you will want to join us in what promises to be a very exciting year.—73, Ian, VA3RIM.

Ham Course

If you are looking for a hobby that expresses your interest in technology, why not check out the exciting world of amateur radio. An introductory class/information meeting will be held in room 207B, the McIntyre Building, Confederation College, on Thursday, October 17th, at 7:00 p.m.